



# NEWS BULLETIN

## SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT of CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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## POOL SAFETY STARTS LONG BEFORE ANYONE GETS INTO THE WATER!



Swimming is the third most popular sports activity in the United States, and while June may be the official start of summer we all know the unofficial beginning is Memorial Day weekend! With that in mind it is important to keep in mind that **pool safety starts long before anyone gets into the water!** According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), **drowning is the 2nd leading cause of accidental death in children aged 1-14 years.** For every drowning there are 4 hospitalized near-drownings and 11 treated near-drownings. Visit the CDC

website at <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html>

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services provides the following recommendations to help ensure a happy and safe swimming season for you and your families:

- Vigilance-Parents/caregivers: **BE WISE, SUPERVISE!** - keep **CONSTANT** watch when children are around water.
- If a child is missing, check the pool **first**. A child can slip **SILENTLY** into a pool.
- Always have an unobstructed view of the pool; towels on the fence and shrubbery adjacent to the fence obstruct view of the pool.
- A four-sided, perimeter fence with a self-locking gate is safest - support water safety legislation in communities.
- If the house forms one side of the fencing, all doors leading to the pool area must be self-locking.
- Put alarms on doors and pool surface to provide additional safety.
- Provide swimming lessons for all pool users - **remember** children playing in water **tire quickly**, insist on rest breaks and watch for signs of fatigue.
- Swimming pool rules should be explained - **stress** safety near water, no running or "horseplay." Familiarize children with water depths and "safe areas" to play.
- A responsible person should be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Emergency phone numbers should be posted near the pool, and a phone should be accessible near the pool.
- Empty/Turn over all kiddie pools and portable pools when not in use.
- Make sure pool safety equipment is operational.
- Store pool chemicals safely, and install a pool safety cover.

- Remove ladders from above ground pools when not in use.
- Check state and local building codes for regulations on backyard pools.
- **Children under four may drown in as little as 1" of water.** The kiddie pool or a pail of water (helping Dad wash the car) may be as dangerous as the backyard pool or the ocean to a toddler. The bathtub, toilet bowl and hot tub are also potentially dangerous. Never leave a toddler under the age of four alone near these water sources.

For a copy of the **Health Department's POOL SAFETY BROCHURE** click on this link:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/Documents%20and%20Forms/Health%20Services/Seasonal/01-24-12%20Pool%20Safety%20Brochure.pdf>

For a copy in Spanish click on this link:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/Documents%20and%20Forms/Health%20Services/Seasonal/01-24-12%20Pool%20Safety%20Brochure%20Spanish.pdf>



**Take the POOL SAFETY PLEDGE: "I WON'T LEAVE CHILDREN ALONE NEAR A POOL, NOT FOR A MINUTE, NOT FOR A SECOND, NOT EVER!"**

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**Children's Camps**...Each overnight, day and travel children's camp is inspected by the County Health Services Department to make sure that they are in compliance with the provisions of State Sanitary Code, Subpart 7-2. One of the many areas inspected are the camp's swimming program as it is one of the most potential hazardous activities in the camp environment.

A comprehensive safety plan specifies camp policies and procedures and helps staff understand their responsibilities for implementation. Failure to implement a complete buddy system has been a significant contributing factor in every camper drowning related to a children's camp since 1986.

For more information visit the Health Dept.'s website at [www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health)

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*The Suffolk County Health Department's Cancer Awareness Task Force reminds you to protect your skin from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays all year round.*